



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Joseph M. Bennett
Serial No.: 09/664,976 (AF Inv D378)
Filed: September 18, 2000
For: MITIGATING IGNITION OF FLUIDS BY HOT SURFACES

#51A
3-6-03
Group Art Unit: 1771
Examiner: L. Roche

AMENDMENT

Honorable Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

In response to the Examiner's Action dated 26 August 2002, please amend the application as follows and consider the remarks following relative to the rejection of the claims.

IN THE CLAIMS

Amend claim 1 by substituting the following claim 1 for the corresponding claim presented in the application as filed. A version of the amended claim 1 with markings to show changes made is presented in the attached Appendix A.

1. (amended) A structural element for enclosing or supporting hot operating machinery, comprising:
(a) a structural member for enclosing or supporting a hot operating machinery; and
(b) means defining a plurality of micro-cavities of preselected width and of preselected depth less than the thickness of said structural member on the outer surface of said structural member for mitigating ignition of a flammable liquid that comes into contact with said structural member, said micro-cavities being about one millimeter in width to minimize seepage of the liquid into said micro-cavities because of the surface tension of the liquid.

CANCEL CLAIM 5.